

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 remain pending in the application, unchanged.

The Examiner inquired as to the phrase “pseudo random number” as used in claim 3. This is meant to refer to an arrangement in which a dime (or other increment of money) is represented by a long string of pseudo random data (e.g., 1010100101010101001010101010101010100101010110101101010110101010010010101010101010101010100001010010). The length of this data token provides a measure of security against happenstance correct imitation, and the small value of the token makes it hardly worth while to attempt hacking. These data tokens are issued by, e.g., a bank in exchange for money, and are exchanged between parties in on-line commerce transactions as proxies for money. The merchant receiving such data tokens in exchange for goods/services can forward them to the bank and receive a credit corresponding to the number of valid tokens redeemed. (The bank will only give credit for a particular token once – so if a copy is later submitted, the bank will refuse making a second payment.)

Such technology is detailed in the still-pending parent application 09/337,590 (and in a divisional application which has now been published as US 20010053234.)

Claims 1-3 stand rejected over O’Leary (6,609,113) and Flitcroft (20020028481) – both singly, and in combination..

Applicant respectfully notes that O’Leary was filed on February 3, 2000. (Although O’Leary recites a claim of priority that extends back to a provisional application filed May 3, 1999, it is not evident that the May 3, 1999 application includes the teaching on which the present Action relies.)

Each claim in the present application is supported by disclosure in applicant’s priority application 60/134,782, filed May 19, 1999. Accordingly, it is not apparent that O’Leary is properly available as prior art.

If the rejection on O’Leary is maintained, the Examiner is requested to substantiate his belief that the allegedly anticipatory teachings of O’Leary have an effective filing date prior to applicant’s May 19, 1999 priority date.

Applicant also respectfully notes that Flitcroft was filed on June 4, 2002. Although the cover sheet of the publication states that the Flitcroft application is a

continuation of a 2000 filing, which in turn is a continuation of a 1999 filing, Flitcroft's priority claim in the specification tells a different story. In particular, it states that the current publication is a continuation-in-part of the 2000 filing, which in turn was a continuation-in-part of the 1999 filing.

The fact that the Flitcroft publication is not identical to the cited 1999 priority application is reinforced by Flitcroft's recitation of priority to a provisional application filed in 2001.

Again, Applicant respectfully submits that no showing has been made that Flitcroft's 2002 application is prior art to Applicant's c. 1999 work. Again, if the rejection on Flitcroft is renewed, the Examiner is requested to substantiate his belief that the allegedly anticipatory teachings have an effective filing date prior to May 19, 1999.

In view of the foregoing, the undersigned has not reviewed the specifications of the cited art, and offers no comment re same.

Favorable reconsideration is solicited.

Date: April 26, 2004

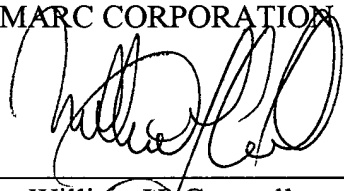
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Respectfully submitted,

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